

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MC-02 /069 W
-----064759 032026Z /70

R 031501Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0300
INFO USMISSION NATO
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12688

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MILI, OCON, GW
SUBJECT: AWACS: STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL'S COMMENTS

REFS: (A) STATE 178806 DTG 300021Z JUL 77 (NOTAL)
(B) BONN 11677 DTG 141744Z JUL 77
(C) BONN 11553 DTG 131600Z JUL 77
(D) BONN 11521 DTG 121905Z JUL 77
(E) BONN 10873 DTG 291640Z JUN 77
(F) NATO 6794 DTG 140938Z JUL 77 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO FMOD STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL, THE
FRG IS INTENSIVELY STUDYING THREE ALTERNATIVE EARLY
WARNING SYSTEMS, OF WHICH AWACS IS ONE. THE FMOD IS
ALSO STUDYING A SYSTEM BASED ON NIMROD AND -- IN A
DIFFERENT REFERENCE TO AN AIRBUS LINKAGE FROM THAT
PREVIOUSLY MADE BY LEBER -- A SYSTEM WHICH MIGHT
COMBINE THE AIRBUS WITH THE NIMROD RECONNAISSANCE
SYSTEM. SCHNELL
LINKED POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY FRG IN A NATO PURCHASE
OF AWACS TO STATIONING IN THE FRG AND GOALS OF THE
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GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY. END SUMMARY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WHICH APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 2
EDITION OF HANDELSBLATT, FMOD STATE SECRETARY KARL
SCHNELL COMMENTED THAT AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM IS

REQUIRED IN EUROPE FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW.
NEVERTHELESS, THE FRG MUST KEEP DOWN THE COST AS WELL
AS POSSIBLE, PERHAPS BY ELECTING A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE
LIMITED TO CENTRAL EUROPE ONLY. ACCORDING TO SCHNELL
THE FMOD IS CONSIDERING THREE ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS:

- THE BRITISH NIMROD;
- A GERMAN/FRENCH/BRITISH SYSTEM COMBINING THE
AIRBUS WITH THE NIMROD, AND;
- THE US BOEING E 3 A AWACS, 12 OF WHICH WOULD BE
REQUIRED FOR CENTRAL EUROPE, WITH THE POSSIBIL-
ITY THAT NATO COUNTRIES (INCLUDING FRANCE),
WOULD SHARE IN THE FINANCING AND MAINTENANCE.

2. QUESTIONS WHICH THE FMOD IS STUDYING INCLUDE:

- (A) THE INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN AWACS AND
NIMROD;
- (B) THE CONNECTION OF THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM
WITH NADGE;
- (C) THE SUITABILITY OF THE AIRBUS AS AN EARLY
WARNING SYSTEM WITH REGARD TO FLIGHT DURATION
AND MODIFICATION COSTS.

SCHNELL ALSO SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF FINANCING AND
THE PARTICIPATION OF NATO MEMBERS MUST STILL BE
THOROUGHLY LOOKED INTO. IN THIS CONNECTION, SCHNELL
ASSERTED THAT THE FRG'S PARTICIPATION IN AN AWACS
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SYSTEM DEPENDS UPON THE STATIONING OF THE FLEET IN
THE FRG.

3. WHILE THE FMOD'S GOAL REMAINS THE OBTENTION OF
THE MAXIMUM DEFENSE FOR THE MINIMUM OF MONEY, SCHNELL
SAID THAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE
GOALS OF ECONOMIC POLICY, ECONOMIC TRENDS, AND THE

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12688

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION. IN THIS CONNECTION COOPERATION
IN ARMS MANUFACTURE AND STANDARDIZATION ARE IMPORTANT
CONSIDERATIONS. IN THE CASE OF ARMS PURCHASES FROM
FOREIGN COUNTRIES, THE FMOD "KEEPS IN MIND THE
NECESSARY COMPENSATION ORDERS FOR GERMAN INDUSTRY."

4. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE THE UK'S DECISION TO
GO AHEAD WITH NIMROD HAS GIVEN THE FMOD MORE TIME TO
STUDY THIS WHOLE QUESTION. THE ARTICLE ALSO COMMENTS
THAT NO FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR AN AIR-BORNE EARLY
WARNING SYSTEM PRIOR TO 1982.

5. SCHNELL'S COMMENTS FOLLOW A REPORT OF AN INTERVIEW
OF DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER IN THE JULY "FRANKFURTER
ALLGEMEINE" (REFTEL D). THEY ALSO APPEAR TO CONTRADICT
LEBER IN THAT LEBER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THEN
THAT THE AIRBUS WAS NOT A SUITABLE CARRIER FOR THE
RADAR SYSTEM. RATHER, LEBER SAID THAT IF THE FRG
ACCEPTS BOEING AS THE AWAC'S CARRIER, "THE AMERICANS
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MUST PURCHASE SEVERAL AIRBUS MACHINES."

6. THE LEBER INTERVIEW WAS FOLLOWED BY COMMENT FROM
THE OPPOSITION (REFTEL B). LEBER WAS CRITICIZED FOR
LINKING PURCHASE OF AIRBUS TO PURCHASE OF AWACS.
THE OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN (BUNDESTAG DEPUTY DAMM)
WAS QUOTED IN THE JULY 13 EDITION OF THE "FRANKFURTER
ALLGEMEINE" TO HAVE SAID, "IT WAS MUCH MORE NECESSARY
FOR THE AMERICANS FINALLY TO BUY EUROPEAN WEAPON
SYSTEMS IN A SUBSTANTIAL MANNER." END UNCLASSIFIED

7. SCHNELL'S PUBLIC REMARKS RECALL TO US THE COMMENT

MADE BY MAJOR GENERAL JUERGEN BRANDT TO US IN JUNE
(REFTEL E) TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FRG WOULD FAVOR
BASING OF AWACS ON THE CONTINENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE
UK HAD GONE AHEAD WITH NIMROD. WHILE BOTH SCHNELL
AND BRANDT WERE REFERRING IN THEIR COMMENTS TO THE
STATIONING OF NATO AWACS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY
WOULD BE PUZZLED BY OUR STATIONING OF US NATIONAL
AWACS IN THE UK.
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